

V SPOTLIGHT

By Helen Marketti



The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil Spectacular...Magnificent...Magical...Brilliant...

These are the words I chose to describe *The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil* after seeing the show in person at The Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. The show has continued for 17 years and is still going strong. It is one of the most popular shows in Las Vegas with sell-out performances and enthusiastic crowds. I saw the show for myself on August 9, 2023, while on vacation for the first time in Las Vegas. It is a must-see performance that will leave the audience wide-eyed and speechless.

The show is set to original Beatles music and the soundtrack covers the band's career from the early mop top '60s, transitioning into their psychedelic era, and wrapping up their time together by 1970. In between, the 90-minute performance is a mix of rock, ballads, and love songs that move the audience from toe tapping and clapping while triggering some tears along the way.

We were treated to watching the spectacular moves of aerial acrobatics, fearless trampoline jumps, along with rhythmic and expressive dancers. The stage is in the middle of the theatre, with surrounding seats, so there is a different view from anywhere you sit. There is always something happening onstage so sometimes the view is on "entertainment overload" but well-worth the eye-popping performances as you are

looking up, down, left, and right.

The surround sound has speakers built into each individual seat, making you feel as though you are at a live Beatles concert. There are two large screens that show clips of The Beatles' performances, pictures, conversations, and much more. It is a complete "Beatles experience" that you will clearly not see anywhere else.

This show was actually the brainchild of the late George Harrison. He was a big fan of Cirque du Soleil work and had spoken with Guy Laliberté, one of the company's founders, inquiring whether they could do a show using The Beatles music! And that's how the concept first came into being. George Harrison passed away in 2001 and did not live to see the show materialize but everyone carried on to make his dream a reality. Working on the legalities of the show took at least three years, including receiving the needed permission of surviving Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, along with George Harrison's widow Olivia, and John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono. Their input, suggestions and support helped to push this incredible show into a production that has lasted for nearly 20 years and hopefully will continue.

At this writing, The Hard Rock Café has purchased The Mirage Hotel. There was



speculation that 2023 would be the last of *LOVE*. However, I have learned that the show will continue in 2024 and then it will be a decision made on a year-by-year basis. It would only make sense to keep a Beatles show under the Hard Rock Café canopy. It just seems to go together!

The *LOVE* Theatre seats a little over 2000 guests! You are truly mesmerized and captivated by all that you see and hear as soon as the show begins. The costumes, the lighting, the archive footage, the props, **THE MUSIC...** as it all mingles together for a surreal experience

The Beatles' record producer, the late George Martin, and his son Giles were the music directors for the soundtrack for the show which includes over 200 snippets of Beatles songs and are beautifully mixed together for a remarkable listening experience. Some of the songs included in *LOVE: I Want to Hold Your Hand, HELP, Back In The USSR, Drive My Car, Glass Onion, Strawberry Fields, Something, Eleanor Rigby, Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, Come Together, All You Need Is Love* and many more Beatles favorites.

The cast and

crew perform for audiences 6 days a week and to see it is to believe it. I promise you will not be disappointed if you ever have an opportunity to witness this spectacular show for yourself. I have friends who had seen the show and said it was a must. I have to agree.

February 9, 2024, will mark the 60th anniversary of The Beatles arriving in America and appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show. The Beatles continue to captivate, while influencing and attracting new legions of fans. Their music will last throughout our lifetime and well beyond. *LOVE* physically puts together the expression of The Beatles' music and literally brings their songs to life!

www.thebeatles.com

www.cirquedusoleil.com

www.vegas.com

